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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P8677WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/02566	International filing date (day/month/year) 13.06.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 13.06.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A61C7/08		
Applicant MOHINDRA, Naresh Kumar		



1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

 These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 30.09.2003	Date of completion of this report 17.02.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Ardhuin, H Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7511 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/GB 03/02566**

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-10 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-4 received on 03.12.2003 with letter of 27.11.2003

Drawings, Sheets

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☒ the claims, Nos.: 5-9
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-4
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-4
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-4
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB03/02566

The following documents were cited in the search report:

- D1: US-A-5 299 936 (UENO) 5 April 1994 (1994-04-05)
- D2: WO 00 35369 A (FARRELL) 22 June 2000 (2000-06-22)
- D3: US-A-5 879 155 (KITTELSEN) 9 March 1999 (1999-03-09)
- D4: US-B1-6 371 758 (KITTELSEN) 16 April 2002 (2002-04-16)

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

V.1. Novelty of the independent claim 1

The document D3 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a mass produced universal dental appliance which comprises the two parts defined in claim 1 of the present application ("posterior occlusal pads 71"), each part comprising a first layer as defined in claim 1 of the present application (see col. 5, lines 41-56) and a second layer as defined in claim 1 of the present application (see col. 5, lines 8-25).

This known dental appliance does however not comprise the protrusions as defined in claim 1 of the present application. It seems therefore that the subject-matter of claim 1 meets the requirement of Article 33 (2) PCT.

V.2. Inventive step of the independent claims

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as providing an dental appliance allowing to train the muscles that control the lower jaw (see description p. 9, line 29 to p. 10, line 4).

None of the documents cited in the search report describes a dental appliance comprising protrusions which from at least 2 mm up to 20 mm extends from the surface of the second layer away from the first layer.

Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 1 seems to meet the requirement of Article 33 (3) PCT.

V.4. Dependent claims

Claims 2-4 relate to preferred embodiments of claim 1. Hence they also appear to fulfil the requirements of Article 33 (2) and (3) PCT.

V.5. Industrial application

Industrial application is self-evident. Thus, the claims appear also to fulfil the requirements of Article 33 (4) PCT.